

BC3 golf outing, marking 25th anniversary, raises record \$100K

Aug. 19, 2020



A foursome representing the Butler Eagle, from left, Pat Preston, Ron Vodenichar, Rob Voltz and Ken Fair, won the Butler County Community College Education Foundation golf outing for the second year in a row Aug. 7, 2020, at Olde Stonewall Golf Club.

(Butler, PA) For the first time in its quarter century of raising funds to support student scholarships and other initiatives at Butler County Community College, the BC3 Education Foundation golf outing Aug. 7 raised \$100,000 and topped a record set in 2019.

And for the second time in two years, the identical foursome representing the Butler Eagle won the team scramble and will again have their names – Ron Vodenichar, Ken Fair, Rob Voltz and Pat Preston – engraved on the 2-year-old Champions Cup, a 27-inch-high trophy mirroring the National Hockey League’s Stanley Cup.

Vodenichar, Fair, Voltz and Preston finished with a collective 17-under at the par-70 Olde Stonewall Golf Club, where 108 golfers and 34 sponsors helped the BC3 Education Foundation to raise the record amount.

The previous milestone of \$95,000 was raised in 2019.

“This definitely shows the connection we have with the community as the community’s college,” said Dr. Nick Neupauer, president of BC3. “Any money we raise in the foundation is important because ultimately, in one way or another, it goes back to our most important asset, our students. Any time we can help that most important asset is a great day.”

The Butler Eagle foursome shot a 16-under in 2019, when the BC3 Education Foundation golf outing passed the \$1 million mark in funds raised since the event began in 1996.

John Kearns, Sam Kearns, Mike Hook and John Hook, representing Enviro Testing and Solutions, finished second at 11-under.

Ethan Nicholas won closest to the pin on No. 5 at 19 feet, 2 inches; Clem Rosenberger won closest to the pin on No. 7 at 3 feet, 11 inches; Bob Vernick won closest to the pin on No. 14 at 23 inches; and Jeff Howard won closest to the pin on No. 15 at 3 feet. Nicholas won longest drive on No. 10 and Joe Garvin, the longest putt on No. 18.

Farmers National Bank of Emlenton served as the title sponsor of the BC3 Education Foundation golf outing for the 11th year in a row.

“This is such a great opportunity from Farmers’ perspective as a team opportunity with BC3,” said Kyle Hilfiger, branch manager of Farmers National Bank’s Bon Aire office. “The golf outing is such a fantastic fundraiser because unrestricted funds can really help students who



A foursome representing Enviro Testing and Solutions, from left, John Kearns, John Hook, Sam Kearns and Mike Hook, are shown during the Butler County Community College Education Foundation golf outing Aug. 7, 2020, at Olde Stonewall Golf Club. The team finished second in the event.



A foursome representing Farmers National Bank of Emlenton, from left, Josh Fye, Jim Hrabosky, Dr. Nick Neupauer and Bob Vernick, are shown during the Butler County Community College Education Foundation golf outing Aug. 7, 2020, at Olde Stonewall Golf Club. Neupauer is president of BC3 and Hrabosky is BC3’s vice president for administration and finance. Farmers National Bank of Emlenton was the title sponsor of the event for the 11th year in a row.

need it. There is no, ‘This has to go to this program’ or ‘This has to go to that program.’ They can really dial in to the students who need the funds, need the help.”

Added Ruth Purcell, executive director of the BC3 Education Foundation: “The reason this outing is so important is because it raises unrestricted money. What we are seeing in every nonprofit and in higher education foundations is that more and more people who are giving money want to designate it to something.”

For students who cannot afford a college education, “This is a lifeline for them,” said Lisa Guard, of Specialized Staffing and Industry Recruiters and a first-time BC3 Education Foundation golf outing participant. “Everyone deserves a shot at having an education.”

Unrestricted funds raised during the BC3 Education Foundation golf outing support the BC3 President’s Scholarship, the college’s new Pioneer Pantry and other opportunities beyond the classroom.

Restricted, or endowed, funds enable the BC3 Education Foundation to award more than \$200,000 annually in scholarships which, with financial aid and BC3’s affordable tuition, allow 70 percent of BC3 graduates to graduate debt-free.

The Champions Cup was donated in 2019 to the BC3 Education Foundation by Kelly and John Giles, then-owners of Cutting Edge Solutions, Butler. Kelly Giles is one of 19 directors on the BC3 Education Foundation board.

BC3, ranked as the No. 1 community college in Pennsylvania for 2020 by BestColleges.com, has additional locations in Brockway, Jefferson County; Cranberry Township, Butler County; Ford City, Armstrong County; New Castle, Lawrence County; and Sharon, Mercer County; in addition to its main campus in Butler Township.



A foursome representing Butler Technologies, from left, Clem Rosenberger, Tristan Tripodi, Nadine Tripodi and Jack Cohen, are shown during the Butler County Community College Education Foundation golf outing Aug. 7, 2020, at Olde Stonewall Golf Club. Nadine Tripodi is a BC3 trustee.



A team representing Farmers National Bank of Emlenton, from left, Larry Sommers, Kyle Hilfiger, Bob O’Neill, Jeff Howard and Dave Louis, are shown during the Butler County Community College Education Foundation golf outing Aug. 7, 2020, at Olde Stonewall Golf Club. Farmers National Bank of Emlenton was the title sponsor of the event for the 11th year in a row.

BC3 also had the highest salary-to-cost ratio among 43 colleges and universities in western Pennsylvania in 2018, according to the U.S. Department of Education's College Scorecard.

The 2021 BC3 Education Foundation golf outing is scheduled for Aug. 6.